

More Tips for Staying Safe on the Roads

- ♦ Speed limits are posted for your safety. Use common sense, even if you are in a hurry. Allow extra travel time.
- ♦ Be courteous to others on the road.
 - When turning or changing lanes, always signal your intentions to other drivers.
 - Keep a reasonable distance behind the car in front of you. The greater the speed, the greater the distance.
- ♦ Always come to a full stop at red lights and stop signs.

For more tips on safe driving,
go to **www.mass.gov/ghsb**.

Massachusetts Racial and Gender Profiling Law

If you were stopped by a police officer while driving a motor vehicle, and you feel this stop was made solely on the basis of your race or gender, you may report this incident by calling this toll-free hotline: 1.866.6 RACIAL. You may also directly contact the police department involved.

For more information, go to **www.mass.gov/eops**.

**Your Local Police Department
wants you to...**

**Get where you're
going safely.**



fold

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Get where you're going safely.

Driving citations are used to enforce traffic laws that protect you and others on the road. Receiving one may make you feel upset, frustrated, or even embarrassed. But a citation isn't meant to inconvenience you. It's to encourage you to be a responsible driver, every time you get behind the wheel.

Also, remember to buckle up for every trip—it's the law in Massachusetts. Safety belts increase your chances of surviving a crash by up to 50%.

Speeding impacts your safety...and your wallet:

- ♦ The fine for driving 20 miles over the speed limit is a minimum of \$175, plus a surcharge on your car insurance for up to six years.
- ♦ One-third of fatal crashes in Massachusetts involve a speeding driver.
- ♦ Speed kills on all kinds of roads. The majority of fatal crashes in Massachusetts take place on roadways with a speed limit of 35 mph or less.
- ♦ Speeding reduces your ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway. The faster you drive, the more distance it takes to stop, regardless of your car's braking system.

- ♦ **Encourage everyone in your vehicle to buckle up.**
Massachusetts law requires everyone to wear safety belts.
- ♦ **Protect your child by properly using a child safety seat, booster seat, or safety belt. Police can stop your vehicle, and issue a citation, if a child 12 or under is not properly restrained.**
- ♦ **Avoid driving if you've been using alcohol or drugs.**
Driving skills can be dangerously impaired with as little as one drink.
- ♦ **Concentrate on your driving. Distracted drivers are a factor in nearly 50% of all crashes. Drivers using cell phones are four times more likely to have a crash than other drivers.**
- ♦ **Never drive when you're sleepy. Drowsy drivers show the same signs of impairment as a driver who is intoxicated.**



Jane Swift, Governor
James P. Jajuga, Secretary of Public Safety
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